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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015

Candidates face off

Read our election coverage of last week's televised debates for the Niagara Centre and Niagara West ridings
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A miracle retold

Roger Woodward, who as a boy survived going over the Horseshoe Falls wearing a life-jacket, recounts his tale
Page 18

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UPFRONT

ELECTION

Niagara Centre candidates face off

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Niagara Centre MP Malcolm Allen dismissed as "wild accusations" the claim that 12,000 jobs have disappeared from the riding under his time in office. Liberal challenger Vance Badawey made the charge during TV Cogeco's federal election debate last Tuesday night, as candidates answered questions from voters they hope to represent.

"Let's face it Malcolm, under your watch 12,000 jobs were lost — 12,000 jobs," Badawey told the New Democratic Party incumbent, referring to south Niagara industry downsizing and closures. "A lot of people are working in Alberta now. People are leaving the area. Our youngsters are leaving the area."

The debate, organized by the cable television provider in

partnership with area Chambers of Commerce, included four of the six candidates running in the riding.

Allen and Badawey were joined by David Clow representing the Green Party and Leanna Villella from the Conservatives, responding to previously submitted questions from people throughout the south Niagara communities.

As Port Colborne's former mayor, Badawey said he worked on developing strategies to bring jobs to the area. But, he added, in "eight years while I was mayor and offering a lot of these strategies, not once did you walk in my office... or simply pick up the phone and say, 'Do you need a hand?'"

"Mr. Badawey has made some wild accusations," Allen replied. "First of all you can't substantiate the 12,000 jobs being lost and I challenge him



Niagara Centre federal candidates Vance Badawey, from left, Leanna Villella, Malcolm Allen and David Clow, at TVCogeco's debate.

to put that document on the table."

He accused Badawey of having a selective memory, reminding him that he was the first mayor he met with after he was first elected to office in

2008. Allen was also put on the defensive while responding to a question about red tape small businesses face while hiring staff.

He said the NDP would

reduce small business taxes from the current 11 per cent to nine per cent by 2017, which would then "open up some room financially" to allow small businesses to hire workers.

But Villella said it's a Conservative Party plan that calls for the tax cuts.

"It's the Conservative government that dropped the small business tax to 11 per cent, and it's the Conservative government that are implementing it to drop it again to nine per cent in 2019," she said. "To have Malcolm Allen talk about all the wonderful things that the Conservative government has done, thank you very much."

Allen said it was the former Liberal government that reduced small business taxes to 11 per cent, "and it has been that way for ages." And, he added, his party would reduce the tax rate to nine per cent "two years ahead of the Conservatives," who have yet to officially commit to the tax break.

See **NIAGARA CENTRE** | Page 12

FEDERAL ELECTION

Niagara West candidates discuss jobs, terrorism and poverty

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Niagara West's incumbent Conservative MP Dean Allison, is adamant that foreign trade deals will help local manufacturing companies prosper, but his opponents blame those same trade deals for the loss of 10,000 jobs across Niagara in the past decade.

During a televised debate broadcast live by TVCogeco last Wednesday night, New Democratic Party candidate Namer Rahman said past trade deals are doing more harm than good.

"Mr. Allison talks about trade deals that allowed 20,000 jobs in the Niagara region to walk out," Rahman said. "That's roughly 40 per cent of our manufacturing jobs that left the region in the last 10 years, and that's quite the loss."

Rahman said the federal government is also "trading away at least 10 per cent of the made-in-Canada rules

for our locally produced goods and services such as cars." As a result, he estimated that "another 20,000 manufacturing jobs" will be lost. The debate, organized by the cable television provider in partnership with area chambers of commerce, included four of the five candidates running in the Niagara West riding, which includes Pelham and Wainfleet. In addition to Allison, the Conservative standardbearer, and Rahman, Liberal candidate Phil Rose and Sidi Freere from the Green party answered question submitted by individuals and organizations from throughout the riding — covering topics including job creation, controversial anti-terrorism legislation and poverty.

Allison said Canada will be left behind if it opts out of international trade agreements. "One thing I've noticed being in parliament is the fact that the NDP has a hard time

actually supporting trade deals," Allison said. "The reality is, we're in a global economy."

While Allison agreed that the region has lost manufacturing jobs, he said the Trans-Pacific Partnership will open the door to 800 million additional potential customers and a \$28-trillion economy.

If Canada isn't part of that trade deal, he warned, industries will be at a disadvantage compared to "a whole bunch of countries that are going to have reduced tariffs."

Allison said he was confident that Canada's educated workforce "can compete with anyone in the world, and I believe we're doing so."

He said there are about 800 manufacturing industries remaining in Niagara, and listed several of them that "are kicking butt."

"They're doing great in manufacturing," Allison said, adding the government needs to "give the businesses an opportunity to succeed and create

new markets that they can sell their goods into."

Freere was also concerned about the impact trade deals are having on Canadian jobs.

"We need to establish a system of retaining jobs in this country instead of letting them go offshore, the big expensive ones, and leaving only the cheap ones for our own people. It's time we took serious measures to develop our own economy within our borders," he said. "Our trade agreements and so on have done grave damage to this job situation."

Rose said the Liberal party plans to invest in infrastructure to cultivate job creation and economic growth.

"We are proposing to invest in major quantities," he said.

Transit, affordable housing, long-term care facilities and green infrastructure projects are a few areas where the Liberals plan to invest, creating jobs in each of those industries.

Rose said his party also plans to create jobs for young

people.

"We want to make sure they don't have to leave Niagara in order to work elsewhere," he said.

The anti-terrorism act, Bill C-51, was another divisive issue for the candidates Wednesday.

Freere called the legislation a violation of constitutional rights.

"We have rights and freedoms and we should maintain those rights and freedoms. We've lost them under this bill," he said. "In our whole history, we've never had anything like this and I think it's a risky thing to get into it now."

And Rahman, who said he grew up in Bangladesh under military rule, described the legislation as "unconscionable." "Our rights under the constitution are being peeled back bit by bit," Rahman said, adding the NDP will repeal the bill if elected.

In response, Allison pointed out a recent terrorist plot in

Niagara through which a group of people planned to blow up a train bridge.

"We live in different times now," he said.

Rose said the Liberal party agrees with an expanded no-fly list, as well as greater information sharing between federal government agencies and police services. However, he said a Liberal government would "fix the bill because there are issues yet to be addressed."

Rose's comments also drew criticism from Rahman, who said the Liberals claimed to be against certain provisions of the legislation, but then voted in favour of it.

"There is no moral clarity with the Liberal party when it comes to Bill C-51, and we firmly believe this is an affront to our constitutional rights," Rahman said. "It's fundamentally un-Canadian at the end of the day."

See **NIAGARA WEST** | Page 14

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

Is it possible not to fear when our lives are threatened?

PASTOR MICHAEL NELO

Faith & St. Peter's Lutheran Churches
Dunville & Port Colborne

A few years ago, and then about fifteen years before that, disaster movies were all the rage in Hollywood.

Who can forget the "what if?" fear-filled questions brought on by thoughts of asteroids slamming into Earth, pandemics wiping out billions of people and sudden, catastrophic ice ages?

Is it possible not to fear when our lives are threatened? Is it possible to find comfort and peace when we are helpless in the face of death? How can we be confident and joyful in the face of terrors which are out of our control?

Psalm 46 begins to answer these questions in a most beautiful way. It is the basis for the great and most comforting hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Psalm 46 begins, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled,

though the mountains shake with its swelling." Would you "not fear" even though a natural disaster, war or death itself was at your door?

Of course, left to ourselves we have no hope, and without hope there can be no peace, comfort or joy. We have no strength, no ability and no goodness within ourselves that we can rely on (see Romans 3:9-20, 23 and 5:6-11). All our righteousness is only Christ who dwells within us by faith (Jeremiah 23:6, 33:16; 1 Corinthians 1:30). The world tells us to trust in ourselves, but we let ourselves down every day, time and time again. Yet, with God, it is not so. In Him and only in Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have every good thing, especially in the midst of troubles and death. He "is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." How can we have such confidence?

Our great confidence springs from the Word of God — what God actually says and promises. God cares for us so much that He is not silent. He is not hidden away somewhere up in the sky, but He communicates with us. He comes down to us and through His Word preached, taught and read, looks us in the eye

like a father who gets down on one knee to speak to his beloved child. He bends down to us and not only gives us His Word but washes us of our sins in the Word and waters of Holy Baptism, and gives us the eternal Word, Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh united to us and forgiving us in His Holy Supper. In Him and His precious gifts we have confidence no matter what happens to us in our life. It is God who fights for us and gives us peace (Romans 8:28-39).

The only way we can be absolutely certain of God is by holding to His Word — holding tightly, standing firm, being built on the solid rock, so that when the storms rage and the wind and the waves of this life beat against us, we will not be moved (Matthew 7:24-27). Our solid rock and foundation is Jesus and His Word. That's what God teaches us when He says, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (that is the Word of God that they preached), Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-20).

We must stand on God's Word and cling to the one true God by faith, otherwise we will be drawn into the abyss of evil and lies of every enemy of God. How helpless we seem! And yet, God says that we defy all of them with boldness, for, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) Truly, God is our mighty fortress! With our own might we are helpless, but with God and His Word we have the sword of the Spirit that is sharper than any two-edged sword, which pierces even to the division of our very being (1 Hebrews 4:12), and does battle with every falsehood and evil (Ephesians 6:17).

Therefore, we glorify God for His help, His Word, His Church, His blessed deliverance every day, and especially for the forgiveness of our sins. His Sacraments are that "river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High" (Psalm 46:4). By His amazing and powerful Word and Sacraments "God is in the midst of" His people and, we "shall not be moved; God shall help" always (Psalm 46:1), even through death to the life with Him which has no end. Thanks be to God, for His mercy endures forever! (Psalm 136)

Shipwrecks — Amaryllis

SKIP GILLHAM
For Postmedia Network

Hurricane Betsy caught the Panamanian flag freighter *Amaryllis* off the coast of Florida a little over a half-century ago and put the Canadian-built carrier aground.

It stranded north of Palm Beach on Sept. 7, 1965, while on a voyage, in ballast, from Manchester, England, to Baton Rouge, La.

The crew of *Amaryllis* lived on board and kept up steam for four months in the hope that the vessel could be refloated. But it was not to be.

The stranded ship, located off a popular hotel, became increasingly unpopular with area residents. On the plus side, however, its location created a new sandbar which the local surfing community enjoyed.

Some area youth moved aboard *Amaryllis* with little to charges of "contributing to juvenile delinquency" being laid against the shipkeeper and he got "60 days." It was not until 1975 that scrapping of the hull finally got underway and a road was built to the beach to haul away the



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Amaryllis is shown Sept. 22, 1961, in this Dan McCormick photo, courtesy of Brockville Museum.

steel.

In time, the superstructure was removed and the lower part of the ship was able to be

refloated, towed to another nearby location and sunk as an artificial reef.
This ship had been built for the Canadian

Government as *Cromwell Park* in 1945 and had been a St. Lawrence Seaway caller as *Amaryllis* beginning in 1959.

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Cooking up support for community



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Anthony Minniti, a business account executive at Whites Insurance Brokers in Port Colborne, grills up some burgers and hotdogs for Port Cares.

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- ☒ Supports Conservative Approach of Giving Money to Millionaires instead of the middle class
- ☒ Does not have the best interest of Niagara Centre at heart



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■ TRANSIT

Uber makes its case for Niagara business

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

The controversial transportation network company Uber made its pitch for new regulations to the Niagara Regional Police services board last week as it considers the local market.

"Existing regulations just don't contemplate what we're doing," Chris Schafer, public policy manager of Uber Canada, told the police board, which oversees Niagara's vehicles-for-hire licensing bylaw.

Schafer said UberX — a peer-to-peer ride-sharing program arranged through a mobile phone app — doesn't pick up street hails or occupy taxi stands because it doesn't want anonymous passengers. Riders request a driver through the app, see them arriving in real time and e-mail a receipt so there's

no cash exchange. Drivers and riders rate each other and can be taken off the system if they get a bad rating.

Schafer said the majority of Uber drivers, who undergo background and vehicle checks, work less than 10 hours a week to pick up some extra income.

Regulatory burdens in the transportation industry — such as requiring dome lights on the roof — don't make sense for the Uber model, Schafer said.

"We want to be regulated, but we want to be regulated in a smart way that recognizes some of the fundamental differences about ride sharing," he said.

Uber is proposing regions about transportation network company regulations, separate from taxi rules.

More than 50 jurisdictions

in the United States have accepted those regulations, but Canadian cities have yet to jump on board — though the idea is being contemplated in Edmonton, Ottawa, Toronto and Waterloo.

"There's an opportunity here in the Region of Niagara to be real leaders and embrace this opportunity and frankly, be first out of the gate in Canada," Schafer said.

But Uber, which claims its rates are 30 to 50 per cent less than traditional taxis, has come under fire by taxi companies across the world, including in Niagara.

Hanif Patni, president and CEO of Coventry Connections Inc. which runs Niagara's largest cab company Central Taxi, said the taxi industry wants a level playing field.

"If Uber can set surge prices and set what they want, why can't taxi companies?" he asked outside

the board meeting, which he attended to hear the presentation.

"Our worry at the end of the day is that we have safety."

The taxi industry has invested "insane amounts of money" based on the laws established, Patni said, adding Uber can't slip under the web without those costs.

"I think it is important for the board to understand what Uber is proposing and how it could affect full-time drivers in Niagara trying to make a living."

Full-time taxi drivers in the region, for instance, are required to have commercial insurance for their cabs, which costs \$6,000 to \$7,000 a cab, he said.

"Does the taxi industry need less requirements or does Uber need to meet them?" Patni asked.

Uber drivers, according to the presentation last week, have personal automobile insurance like

every driver in Ontario. Uber drivers are required to tell their insurance company they are working for Uber, and the company has \$5 million in liability insurance. It's working with the insurance industry to adopt ride-sharing insurance policies.

Uber is operating in more than 10 Canadian cities, including Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo. Police board vice-chairman Andy Petrowski invited the company to make a presentation so the board could learn more about the model before it makes an appearance in the region.

Schafer said afterward that if the board creates a new regulation, it would be a big influence in whether Uber comes to Niagara. "I'm hopeful they embrace change and technology," he said.

"Niagara region is not the only region we're looking at."



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FINANCES

Police budget plan comes in without increase

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

Niagara Regional Police have given their board a first look at the proposed 2016 operating budget, presenting a zero per cent increase over last year as requested.

"This budget was prepared with the objective of achieving a realistic, sustainable cost estimate for policing services while attempting to meet the guidance of the board," Chief Jeff McGuire said last Thursday, presenting the \$133.6-million proposal.

"We have met that guidance."

The Niagara police services board asked the service in July to prepare a 2016 operating budget with a zero per cent increase to meet a target set by Niagara Region.

McGuire said there are unresolved factors outstanding as they move forward with the budget, including collective bargaining. The service's three collective agreements for uniform officers, senior officers and civilian employees all expire at the end of 2015.

Also outstanding is the casino district agreement that expired at the end of 2014 and gives the NRP cost recovery from the city of Niagara Falls.

Changes by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to funding through grant programs is also affecting the service, though it doesn't know the total impact yet for 2016.

McGuire said the service used savings from moving to the new headquarters, program reviews, reduction of discretionary

expenditures and reprioritizing resources to mitigate other expenses in the budget.

It eliminated four uniform and six civilian positions, for instance, through those program changes.

But the chief said he couldn't cut any more personnel.

"We've done what we can at this point in our opinion to face off the adequate and effective policing standard we have to meet."

Personnel salaries, benefits and other allowances make up 99% of the total operating budget, with little discretionary spending.

Board member David Barrick, a Port Colborne regional councillor, asked that the budget go to the board's finance committee to be reviewed and discussed.

"I do believe it deserves more than a quick glance and a rubber stamp," he said, adding it's a large budget for the Region and the board was speaking about it Thursday for the first time.

The service's proposed capital budget of \$2.7 million was also referred to the finance committee.

Board member Andy Petrowski, a regional councillor for St. Catharines, said members need to have a deeper conversation about proposed new purchases in the capital budget, which include a communications quality assurance system, marine scanning sonar and an evidence management storage system.



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■ **TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES:** Handmade rugs from Pakistan for sale at Pelham church

Fair trade found underfoot in Fonthill

GREG FURMINGER
Tribune Staff

They are ornate pieces of art that can be walked all over.

In doing so, their owners are symbolically putting their foot down on unfair labour practices in developing nations.

About 200 of these Oriental rugs, as they are called, boast traditional Persian, Bokhara and tribal styles, including Chobis, and are on display and for sale at a Ten Thousand Villages event being staged over nine days at Fonthill United Church, ending this Saturday.

The Port Colborne store managed by Jane Nigh and Kim Hart hosts the event every two years.

Ten Thousand Villages, which sells artisan-crafted personal accessories, home decor and gift items from around the world, is the oldest and largest fair-trade organization in North America. The movement is aimed at bringing justice and hope to the poor by giving them opportunities for being paid fair wages and improving their personal welfare.

Gwen Repeta, manager of a Ten Thousand Villages store in Winnipeg and the Canadian overseer of the

roaming collection of rugs that next will be presented in Montreal, said the beautiful creations procured from the Buniyaad company in Pakistan promote awareness of not only the stores, but raises dialogue on the fair-trade movement itself.

"Who's making them? How are they paid? How does it affect their life? Are some of the questions that could be raised, she said.

People who turn out to the rug event over the next week will have varying reasons for doing so.

"Some do care about the ethics," Repeta said.

Some will come simply

looking for something special, "a good quality product," with which to adorn their home.

All can be viewed online at rugsearch.tenthousandvillages.com.

Fashioned by Christians and Muslims working together in homes and tiny village centres, the rugs are made under no quotas to meet, no deadlines, no directions.

Every rug made is prepared by Buniyaad, which, said Repeta, affords artisans freedom to create as they wish.

Some are of hand-spun wool, some machine-

BUNYAAD RUG EVENT

Fonthill United Church on Canboro Rd.
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Online:
tenthousandvillages.ca, rugsearch.tenthousandvillages.com

wool can be as tight as 800 knots per square inch.

Repeta said price is determined by the number of colours used, intricacy of designs and knotting. That is all reflected in the amount of time taken to produce each rug.

"Your prices reflect labour,"

Lanolin from the wool, though difficult to clean dye, while knotted so closely together gives the rugs an inherent stain resistance, said Nigh.

"They're heirloom rugs that will last 100 to 200 years."

greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca
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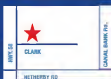
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■ COMMUNITY

Port Colborne seniors advisory seeks new members

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne's seniors citizens advisory council is in need of more members.

The advisory works with city council on ways to make Port Colborne an age-friendly community. Its members work with council to create policies, services, and structures that will help the elderly.

The advisory is looking for people who are civic-minded and have had experience in different areas. People from labour unions and people involved in health care are examples of what the advisory is looking for.

The needs of rural areas are different to the needs of small towns, so having a diverse group is important, said committee chair Richard Moore.

"We want a better connection with the local community. The people who

know the various communities, they hear different things ... they would add more credibility and a better ear to the ground," he said.

An issue the committee has been focusing on is transportation and home support. Providing meals on wheels, taking seniors shopping, helping with personal care and meal preparation.

"It's a useful and welcoming organization. Recently retired people who are looking to participate may find this beneficial," Moore said.

The advisory is looking for people 50 years of age and older. Younger people are also welcome, but the members should have an understanding of senior care and age-friendly issues.

People can apply to join through the City of Port Colborne.

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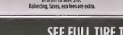
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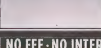
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■ **NIAGARA CENTRE**

Tory under fire over refugees

From Page 2

Villella faced criticism too, when her opponents discussed the Conservative party's handling of the Syrian refugees crisis.

"We have a current government that thinks that dropping bombs is a solution to that," Clow said, referring to Canadian warplanes that began bombing ISIS targets in Syria in April this year.

"We need to adhere to the requests from the (UN) United Nations to provide peace keepers, we need to take in as many of these refugees as we can and we need to do it right now," Clow said.

"This is a dire circumstance, and we need to resolve this issue immediately. ... We need to do more and we need to do it right now! I think."

Villella said Canada has so far brought in 2,605 Syrian refugees, but plans to bring in 11,000 by December, 2016.

Clow continued: "To be clear, we're talking about a country your party is dropping bombs on?"

"We're not dropping bombs on them, David," Villella replied.

Despite the adversity, there were a few questions on which candidates agreed.

Responding to a question regarding hiring people with disabilities, Clow pointed out the wheelchair in which he was seated.

Accessibility, he said, was one of the issues that inspired him to get involved.

"I know first hand that you don't really understand a situation until you're placed in a chair as I am now, or whatever type of disability you have. ... There are all kinds of situations, and we have to pay close attention to what each individual is going through," he said. "And I think there's a lot more we can do for people who have these issues."

Allen said there's still "a great amount of work to be done" before people with disabilities are treated as equal members of society.

"If I have access somewhere, then so should they. If David can't get in, then it's not accessible. That's the bottom line," Allen said.

TV Cogeco's host Mike Balsom updated his audience about the condition of a volunteer camera operator who collapsed during the Niagara Falls debate filmed Monday night, cutting that discussion short in the process.

He said the camera operator, he identified as Tim, was indeed rushed to hospital but was released later that night.

"He is back home today and doing fantastically," Balsom said.

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■ COMMUNITY: Southern Niagara airport renamed

Praises soar as aviation heroine honoured

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Dorothy Rungeling, Canada's flying hero and Pelham housewife, was honoured Saturday at Lookout Point Retirement Village.

"Today is a great day for our airport, the day on which we name our airport in honour of a great hero in aviation," Pelham Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybiak said in his opening remarks at the ceremony.

The 104-year-old Rungeling attended the event to receive recognition for her lifetime of flying and for paving the way for female pilots.

Niagara's southern municipal airport was renamed Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport, and the church at Lookout Point was filled with supporters and well wishers. Members from the Nighy-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots, flew in to be part of the historic event.

Rybiak said he was "thrilled" to see so many people in support of Rungeling and that people came from all over to be part of the event.

"You're a wonderful crowd here, and you're all wonderful people," Rungeling said.

Rungeling's funny stories about her flying adventures had everyone laughing. She reminisced about a time she was flying with her husband, son and dog. They had reached 10,000 feet and she said from the back of the airplane a little voice said "I got to go."

She said she had never had to deal with something like that, and "you know it takes time to get down from 10,000 feet."

They found an aban-

doned airport and managed to land. As she smiled, she said once they stopped the plane her son turned to her and her husband said, "You know, I don't have to go." The audience erupted in laughter.

Rungeling was presented with gifts from John Durley, Pelham Ward 3 councillor. She was also presented with a plaque from local politicians and members of the airport.

"There is zero argument that Dorothy Rungeling is a true Canadian hero and someone who deserves to be recognized and she did what she did at a time when there was just starting to be a glimmer that women could actually accomplish this," Rybiak said.

A bill was introduced in the provincial legislature by West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak on behalf of Niagara Central Airport Commission to change the name of the airport. The bill was introduced during spring of this year and was passed unanimously.

"One of the things to note is the speed in which it occurred. It was in the spring and here we are. Legislation doesn't usually pass that quickly," Rybiak said.

Everyone agreed Rungeling was an inspiration to aspiring pilots and to women in general. She started flying at a time when few women were involved in aviation. She was the first Canadian woman to have an airline transport licence and was the first to fly a helicopter solo.

She also received many trophies throughout her life for racing, including the Amelia Earhart Medal.

Rungeling said if it weren't for the support of her husband Charlie, she

wouldn't have gone to her first air race. "I want to thank everyone for being so kind," she said.

michelle.allenberg@postmedia.ca



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Dorothy Rungeling speaks to a crowd about her accomplishments of being one of the first female pilots in Canada.

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Poverty key topic of debate

From Page 2

The elimination of poverty was something on which all four candidates agreed, however they disagreed about how to accomplish that goal.

Rahman said the NDP would target critical issues such as minimum wage, job retraining, senior citizens care and health care.

"These are all elements that tie into a poverty reduction strategy," he said.

Rose discussed investments planned by the Liberals to invest in affordable housing, to lift families and seniors out of poverty.

A new child benefit plan would also "lift something in the order of 300,000 young people out of poverty," he said.

And seniors would benefit from a 10 per cent increase to their guaranteed income supplement, he added.

Freer said the Green party believes we should implement a guaranteed livable income, and ensure equal pay for equal work.

"We need high quality child care so families that have two parents or one parent can live without begging," he

said.

Allison said it's difficult to develop a national strategy to reduce poverty when the provincial governments say "Don't tell us how we need to spend our money."

He said the federal government also offers the universal child-care benefit for families.

But Freer said the federal government "takes away \$2,000 from families, and returns for a child benefit about \$13 to \$15 and claims they're giving them a gift."

Rahman said tax credits are useless for some impoverished people.

"When you talk about tax credits, at the end of the day, you have to earn an income to get a tax credit," he said. "Unless we're getting to the point where people are earning incomes, tax credits don't mean anything."

The candidates responded to several other questions, about topics including infrastructure investment, climate change, agriculture and legalizing marijuana.

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Nominations are open until November 30, and nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 905-639-8720 ext. 4439.



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Rodman Hall enhances collection with purchase

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

An endowment award has enabled Rodman Hall Arts Centre to purchase a popular work created on its property three years ago.

Settlement, an outdoor installation by aboriginal artist Mary Anne Barkhouse, will be staying put after the gallery received a York Wilson Endowment award of \$30,000 last week from the Canada Council for the Arts.

"This would have been the last year, and it would have been dismantled," says Rodman Hall curator Stuart Reid. "She probably would have been able to sell it to somebody else. We're really thrilled that it's staying because it's become a real storytelling point here on our site."

Titled *Settlement*, the piece was created to coincide with the bicentenary of the War of 1812. It examines issues of sovereignty and confederacy from both an indigenous and ecological view point, using an artist's garden in the shape of a frontier house. Within the interior are bronze statues of a coyote and badger, two hunters who have been known to co-operate with

each other to find burrowing prey in the wild. They allude to the co-operative nature of the allies during the War of 1812.

Nature plays a key role in the installation, as it blooms every spring with the indigenous plants Barkhouse used, including corn, squash, beans and quinoa.

The piece has proven useful for Brock staff and interns, who use it as subject matter in First Nations art and revisionist history for their classrooms.

"The piece is really about issues of territory," says Reid. "Not just land struggles between people, but also amongst plants and animals."

Born in Vancouver, Barkhouse belongs to the Nimpkish band, Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation. Her art has been exhibited across Canada and the U.S. She currently lives in Minden, Ont.

Reid says acquiring the piece is an important addition to the gallery's collection of works by First Nations artists, which are currently underrepresented. Rodman Hall is located at 109 St. Paul Crescent.

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The miracle revisited: Roger Woodward back in the Falls

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

On a July day 55 years ago, seven-year-old Roger Woodward became part of Niagara Falls folklore when he survived

being swept over the Horseshoe Falls.

On a day meant to celebrate his older sister's birthday, he instead made history.

Nowadays, Woodward speaks about that day a lot. Likely because he went decades barely speaking about it at all.

"My sister and I, for 34 years we never talked about it," says Woodward on the line from his home in Huntsville, Ala. "And my sister and I am extremely close."

That's because this inspiring story which made headlines around the world was also a day of tragedy and incredible trauma. A boy lived, but a man died. Woodward's 17-year-old sister was barely rescued before she reached the edge.

Newspapers couldn't get enough of the only known survivor of an unaided trip over the falls. It proved too much for Woodward's parents. Even in the pre-Internet age of 1960, the notoriety of that day followed them everywhere. After moving to Niagara Falls, N.Y., in 1960, they decided two years later.

"My parents just wanted to get away," recalls Woodward, who speaks at the annual Niagara Falls Prayer Breakfast at Club Italia Oct. 2. "There was so much commotion and disruption to the family."

After they moved, they asked Roger and his sister Deanna not to discuss the incident or "anything about Niagara Falls." It wasn't until he was in high school, living in Lakeland, Fla., that a reporter tracked the family down and prompted Roger to share the story once again.

"The people I went to school with didn't know anything about it," he says. "We just never told people about it."

As the years passed, Woodward

revisited the day he should have died. As he talks, he can virtually smell the Niagara River. Feel the mist. The sensation of being pulled under water then thrust up again as the tip of the Horseshoe Falls crept closer.

It was meant to be a day of celebration when family friend Rick Honeycutt offered to take young Roger for his first-ever boat ride. To mark his sister's 17th birthday, he wanted to take them on a tour of the area via the upper Niagara River. Woodward's mom had one condition: Roger was to wear a life-jacket, because he couldn't swim.

On the afternoon of July 9, 1960, the 12-foot aluminum boat set out down the river, approaching the Grand Island Bridge on the U.S. side. To local boaters, the bridge served as the unofficial cut-off point before you risked the falls' wrath.

Honeycutt briefly let Roger steer, and as the currents grew stronger the propeller hit a rock. The engine made an ugly sound and Honeycutt turned it off. But the boat had no anchor or rescue line, and it was now heading into the rapids.

Woodward recalls Honeycutt telling Deanna to put a life-jacket on. Then the real nightmare began. Waves slammed the boat and filled it with water. Everyone was forced into the rapids and lost track of each other. Woodward recalls seeing people running along the shoreline on Goat Island, trying to reach his sister. It was like no one noticed him.

He recalls a moment of peace as he knew he was about to die. He thought of his parents. His dog. His toys. Then it was like he was floating in a cloud. He was enveloped in mist as he made the 167-foot drop into the lower river. As he hit the water everything went dark before

WHO WHAT WHEN why?

Who

Roger Woodward

What

Niagara Falls Prayer Breakfast

Where

Club Italia, 2525 Montrose Rd., Niagara Falls

When

Oct. 2, 6 a.m.

Tickets

\$15 general, \$8 students.
905-357-5555 ext. 247

his life-jacket brought him to the surface again. He had somehow survived something which had claimed countless lives.

A nearby Maid of the Mist boat raced to the scene, battling the choppy water to reel him in without running him over. On the third attempt, he latched onto an orange ring which pulled him aboard.

He didn't realize what had happened until he lay in a hospital bed hours later. Longtime *Review* photographer Ron Roels took a bedside shot of Woodward with Greater Niagara General Hospital nurse Eleanor Weaver. It's one of the most famous photos in the paper's history.

It was the same nurse who, years later, told Woodward it was "healthy" to talk about the incident when he returned to the area years later for a documentary.

"That made me realize it's OK," he says. "This is a part of my his-

tory. I don't claim anything from it, but I didn't do anything wrong. As a young child I just didn't understand, 'Why don't we talk about it?' I was not to."

Once he finally spoke to his sister about it, some surprising new information hit Woodward. For one, the man who reached through a guard rail to grab Deanna missed on his first attempt. A desperate second attempt was only successful because she caught his thumb. Otherwise, she would have likely died.

More than five decades later, only two other people have survived an unaided plunge over the Horseshoe Falls — Kirk Jones in 2003, and a still unidentified man in 2009. But Woodward isn't philosophical about that day, despite the astronomical odds against him.

"I'm not a person who puts any emphasis on luck or odds," he says. "The bible and spirit are my compass and guide in things that I do in life."

"Beating the odds? I know this goes against the grain with the casinos out there, but I really don't believe in luck. I believe that through faith and prayer, combined with inspiration and sweat, you can accomplish the things you want."

Coming back to the Falls is not a stressful thing for him, he adds. More than ever, he's "awestruck" by what surrounds him.

"I'm just amazed how much water and power there is," he says. "When you think about it, the volume of water that is flowing there is just incredible. I love the Great Lakes, they're just absolutely magnificent."

"When I talk to people or tell the story, I can almost spontaneously smell the water again."

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